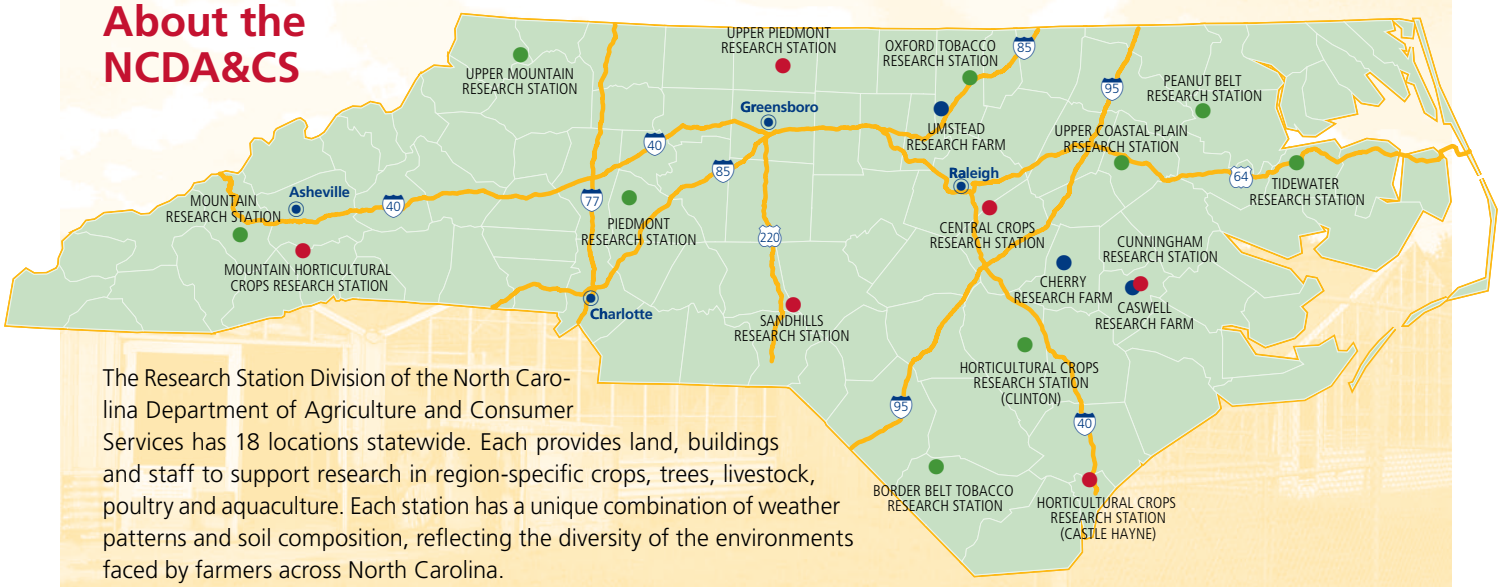
About the NCDA&CS



The Research Station Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has 18 locations statewide. Each provides land, buildings and staff to support research in region-specific crops, trees, livestock, poultry and aquaculture. Each station has a unique combination of weather patterns and soil composition, reflecting the diversity of the environments faced by farmers across North Carolina.

North Carolina's Research Stations represent some of the state's unparalleled foundation of capabilities: fields and land, research and education facilities, and smart farmers. Critical to the future and continued success of agricultural biotechnology in North Carolina is the active engagement, partnership, and collaboration with the state's Research Stations and their rich and diverse resources.

are nine separate steps in the regulatory process that typically take seven to 10 years to complete—a far more rigorous process than is required for conventional foods.

Many organizations, including the American College of Nutrition, the American Medical Association, the International Society of Toxicology, the General Accounting Office of the U.S. Congress, and the World Health Organization have attested to the safety of foods developed with biotechnology.

Still, certain interest groups as well as some consumers continue to have concerns about genetically modified foods. This has commercial impact, because some markets (the European Union and Japan among them) have previously resisted biotech crops. Issues of food safety and genetic modification highlight the many questions surrounding the science and application of agricultural biotechnology. These questions must be addressed thoughtfully, comprehensively, and collaboratively.

Competition

Competition for biotechnology growth and development is intense nationally and internationally. Forty-one states have initiatives in biotechnology to support economic growth, and some of those states have chosen to focus on the agricultural sector.

North Carolina also faces rising competition from other countries. Chinese policymakers consider agricultural biotechnology as a strategically significant tool for improving national food security, raising agricultural productivity, and creating a competitive position in international agricultural markets. Brazil is also aggressively adopting biotechnology. The South American nation is a huge producer of genetically modified crops that compete with U.S. commodities. North Carolina must anticipate the future of agricultural biotechnology and provide the right environment for its growth to remain competitive with other states and nations.